



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Arlington Town Hall

Attendees: *Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Phil Tedesco, Ed Trembley, Keith Schnebly, Tim Lecuivre* (visitors: *Beth Melofchik and JoAnn Preston*)

Agenda - Started 7:34

1. Approve May and June Meeting Minutes

a. Notes –

- i. May Minutes APPROVED
- ii. June Notes
 1. Opposition to neonicotinoid use not captured in record –
 2. Ash trees do not produce nectar
 3. Mis-spellings
 4. MaryEllen will edit to shorten

2. Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2019 (Mary Ellen)

a. Follow-up/Watering reminders

- i. ATC received one question about damaged redbud
- ii. Planting went very smoothly. Oaks were delivered one day and the redbuds the following week.
- iii. Action: MaryEllen will send a watering reminder

b. Review of 2017 trees/article

- i. Notes
 1. Need to “visit” trees planted in 2017 and perhaps do a write up on success – **Action: Eliza to visit trees and Keith to write – needed before next promotion –**
 2. Discussion about when a tree is no longer wanted after it has been ordered. Should we let people know that they can contact us if a tree does not actually work for them after they receive it. This is more common when people order larger trees

3. Publicity/Community Outreach

a. Watering

- i. Eliza regularly posts watering reminders to FB
- ii. Need to post reminders – Tim says watering more than once a week is ok – “never too much water”
- iii. 10 gallons / inch (DBH) per week –
- iv. Gator bags hold 15-20 gallons

b. FB and Google groups activity

c. Town Day booth; Sept 14 –

- i. Steve reserved booth; Town Day is 10:00 – 3:00. Please hold date

- ii. Ideas
 - 1. Request new Maps from Adam K in August
 - 2. Tree give away: Ed supply Birch Trees; Beth Silver maples
 - 3. EAB info; New Covenant brochures available?
 - 4. Day in the life of a tree warden
- d. New trees planted: library (6/13) and Uncle Sam Plaza (6/16)
 - i. Library Trees – Intern is watering; Tim not sure if library is watering
 - ii. New maple at Uncle Sam Plaza – intern is watering
 - 1. MEA posted to Google groups – great response
 - 2. Mara and Eliza posted to FB; also generated a lot of response
- e. 4 reasons for tree loss: lack of water; fertilizer; string trimmers; volcano mulch
 - i. Need to be posted on FB, Google group
 - ii. Door hanger – summer news – **Phil will work on draft?**

4. DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update

- Tree hearing(s)
 - A. 28 Argyle Rd – small house being replaced by two family (Seaver) – tree plan – in compliance but 23 inch Linden in the driveway plan.
- Tree Bylaw activity
 - A. 5 Old Middlesex Path – Contractor (Bill French) reached out to Tim; – 6 protected trees will come down; will keep oaks in the set back and plant 6 new trees
 - Would be interesting to do a canopy comparison in Morningside region from 15 years ago to today
 - Mary Ellen to notify Larry - result of tree plan
 - B. 329 Washington St. – Tim accepted plan from (Seaver) but one tree was not accurately represented. One tree will be replaced
 - C. 28 Argyle Rd – see Tree hearing
 - D. 40 Arnold (Ed House...) – working with Tim on Tree Plan – removing 4 large trees along back property line to build a wall. There was discussion about how the Tree Committee might be involved to help homeowners and developers to understand the value of these trees and work to preserve them. Two possible approaches:
 - a. Good Neighbor agreement – passed Town Meeting
 - b. Lose of Property Value
- Do we plant in vicinity of projects where developers opted to remove and pay?
 - A. Tim reported that right now everyone is removing and replanting so no real money coming in; once bylaw amendments are in place, we will have to come up with a plan but not yet.
- Interns – 1 left; 1 didn't work out
 - A. Responsible for watering last year's trees (1 truck can water max 250 trees/week) or approximately 50 trees a day.
 - B. Really need another 2 trucks and another person per truck
 - Prepare to ask for these items in the budget
 - a. Need letter from Tree Committee to Mike R to make this request . **Mara and Phil to 'pen'**
 - C. Overtime helps but not enough coverage
- Tim watering the spring planting of 150 trees; approx. 3 have died
- EAB strategy/update
 - A. DPW Met with Rich from Rainbow – non neonicotinoid mectinite. This is synthetic not organic. Tim got cost info

- B. Will meet with Bio Forest (Organic) by end of month
- C. Mike will decide based on cost info & Pro / Con list
 - **Brian to do more research**
- D. Need to decide which ash trees to focus on
 - Look at the Map and pick trees
 - a. **Keith / Mary Ellen to extract from Town Map / Inventory**
 - i. **Trees with lots of Ash Trees**
 - ii. **Size, health,**
 - iii. **Parks**
- E. Do Nothing Option – document cost of loss of all Ash Trees
- F. \$30k in budget for 2019
- G. JoAnn mentions a need to alert community about EAB
 - **Get brochure from Heekyoung - Keith**
 - **Article in Advocate**
 - Letters in mailbox
 - Javier's information
 - Somerville Urban Forestry page – info

5. *New Business*

- Change of Staff – New DPW employee – speeding things up
- Identify and catalog Tree loss – Joanne to document instances and solutions
- **Mara to write up “A Day in the Life” of Tree Warden by a week before Town Day for the advocate**
- Mara pitched PodCast for “Soonish” episode.
- ACMI – can create PSA from Tree Committee – **Mara & Eliza will develop a plan for PSA.** Ideas:
 - A. Meet the Tree Warden
 - B. New Covenant
 - C. Watering
 - D. EAB

Adjourned – 9:24

Next meeting: Wednesday, Aug 14.